

Unimas educational camp for primary schoolchildren

KUCHING: An educational camp organised by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) for primary schoolchildren will be held at Matang Wildlife Centre this Saturday.

Themed 'Learning Science is Fun', the one-day programme, which begins at 8.30am, will include several nature-oriented activities to engage children in learning more about nature and science.

The camp will be conducted by facilitators from various Unimas science faculties. One of the facilitators is Dr Ramlah Zainuddin, a senior lecturer attached with the Zoology Department.

Ramlah explained that the aim of the camp was to inspire children to learn more about biology and the environment in a fun hands-on, laid-back and engaging atmosphere.

"Hands-on experiments in scientific laboratories as well as field excursions are among the best platforms for students to learn scientific concepts."

"They will be able to make in situ observations and learn about what is being practised locally rather than just read from textbooks which often emphasise or cite general examples from western countries," she said.

One of the interesting educational activities planned is a guided jungle walk.

Ramlah said that the highlight of the camp would be when the children observe the animals in the enclosures at Matang Wildlife Centre and learn to identify their animal groups, infer their unique characters and state their feeding mode.

All participants are to wear appropriate clothing for light field work as the learning mode is heavily field and lab-based.

Each participant is required to pay a fee of RM100 which is inclusive of park entrance fees, three meals (breakfast, lunch and tea-break) and activity materials such as pencils, pH meter, conference kits and activity manuals.

Certificates will be given to all camp participants during the closing ceremony to be held at 3.30pm.

Although walk-in registrations are accepted on the actual day of the camp, due to limited seats, parents who are interested in enrolling their children in the camp are advised to first check for availability of seats by calling Noorliza Dan at the Lifelong Learning Unit, Unimas at 082-582 428 / 2489.

For more information about Save the Frogs Day and the Frog Race, visit <http://theborneanfrograce2013.weebly.com>